

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e. that claim 31 is allowable. Claim 29 (the only pending independent claim) recites features of that claim 31.

Claims 29, 34 and 35 have been amended, and claims 30-31 have been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter has been added by virtue of the amendments. For instance, support for the amendments appear in the original claims and addressed matters of form..

Claims 29, 30, 32-36, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Shida et al. (U.S. Patent 6,060,207) in view of Goodall et al. (WO 97/33198).

Claim 37 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Shida et al. (U.S. Patent 6,060,207) in view of Goodall et al. (WO 97/33198) and further in view of Watanabe et al. (U.S. Patent 5,9721,559).

For the sake of brevity, the two rejections are addressed in combination.

As discussed in Applicants' prior response, the combination of Shida and Goodall is not proper. Among other things, the two documents address distinct polymer systems. Shida reports particular acrylate compounds whereas Goodall reports poly-norbornene-type polymers. Those polymers of Shida and Goodall are synthesized by different protocols and are recognized as being clearly different materials. Persons skilled in the art would have had simply no inclination or ability to combine features of those distinct polymers as proposed by the instant rejection.

Goodall also does not suggest polymerized acrylate groups as claimed.

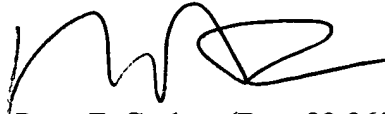
In any event, as discussed above, claim 29 (the only pending independent claim) recites features of claim 31, which claim was indicated to be allowable.

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In view thereof, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter F. Corless', with a stylized, cursive script.

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